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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement dated 10 May 1993 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, which was received by fax.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

The Armenian armed forces are continuing their military operations in the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic.

In the past few days, beginning on 1 May 1993, population centres in the Kazakh, Tauz, Kedabek and Zangelan districts of Azerbaijan and the Sadarak district of Nakhichevan have been bombed and shelled from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. This has caused civilian casualties and considerable destruction.

While expanding its military presence and fortifying its positions in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, the aggressor is continuing to move into the heart of Azerbaijan, broadening the zone of military operations.

Half a dozen villages in the Kazakh district of Azerbaijan have now been captured by the Armenian armed forces, and another 10 are under the threat of occupation. The number of refugees has reached 7,000.

The Armenian forces are continuing their offensives in the Agderi, Geranboy and Fizuli districts of Azerbaijan.

The further escalation of aggression against Azerbaijan is accompanied by demagogic declarations by the Republic of Armenia regarding its non-involvement in the conflict in the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic. Yet such assertions are refuted by the very actions of the Republic of Armenia - beginning with the decree issued by the Armenian Parliament on 1 December 1989 concerning the annexation of Nagorny Karabakh, and ending with the direct military intrusion by the Armenian armed forces into the territory of Azerbaijan, and the occupation of Lachin, Kelbajar and other Azerbaijani districts, accounting for over 10 per cent of Azerbaijani territory. Armenia cannot fool the international community.

The Azerbaijani position derives from the generally accepted norms of inter-State relations, on the basis of which the Azerbaijani Republic demands respect from the Republic of Armenia for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Committed to the principles and norms of international law, the Azerbaijani Republic has made and continues to make every effort to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict, enlisting international mediators within the framework of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Republic of Armenia, however, through its illegal actions, not only is undermining such efforts, but also is casting doubt on the very prospects of a peaceful settlement, thus cynically defying the whole world community.

Even as it continues its military operations, Armenia is loudly calling for a cease-fire while at the same time maintaining its military presence in

Azerbaijan and doing everything to drag out the negotiating process, a major element of which is the working out of the mechanisms and regime of a cease-fire. Little else could be expected of the aggressor.

Having sabotaged the Minsk process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe by occupying Azerbaijani territory, the Armenian side is flagrantly violating the norms of international law. Above all, it is violating the Charter of the United Nations, for it is yet to comply with the Security Council's request to withdraw the occupying forces from Kelbajar and other occupied districts of Azerbaijan. Such behaviour by the Republic of Armenia aggravates the adverse consequences of the evolving situation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic vigorously protests the actions of the Republic of Armenia, and appeals to the United Nations Security Council to take strong and decisive measures to restrain the aggressor and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.